

Dec. No. 8218*

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

WAR CRIMES OFFICE
 Judge Advocate General's Department --- War Department
 United States of America

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In the matter of the deaths of * Perpetuation of the testimony of
 American prisoners of war at * James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc,
 Mukden, Manchuria, from c/a 11 * AGO 6983531.
 November 1942 to c/a 30 August *
 1945.

* * * * *

Taken at:Rhoads General Hospital, Utica,
New York.Date:

9 November 1945.

In the Presence of:

Norman W. Harris, Agent, 1251st SCU,
 Foreign Positive Intelligence Section,
 Security & Intelligence Division, Head-
 quarters, Second Service Command, 1270
 Sixth Avenue, New York, New York.

Reporter:

Norman W. Harris, Agent.

Questions by:

Norman W. Harris, Agent.

Q State your name, grade, serial number, and permanent home
 address.

A My name is James Alexander Gilbert. I am a Pfc; my serial
 number is 6983531. My permanent home address is RFD #1,
 Ellicott Road, Alban, New York.

Q State the date and place of your birth, and your civilian
 occupation.

A I was born on 4 July 1920 at Alban, New York. I was a
 student before entering the Army.

Q What formal education have you had?

A I have completed two years and two months of pre-medical
 school at the University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York.

Q Have you recently returned to the United States from overseas?

A Yes; I returned to the United States on 1 October 1945 by
 plane. I landed at Mitchel Field, Long Island.

Q Were you a prisoner of war?

A Yes.

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Q At what places were you held, and state the approximate dates.

A I was captured at Fort Hughes, P.I., on 6 May 1942. I was taken to Cabanatuan prison camp, where I was held until 5 October 1942. I was then taken to a prison camp at Mukden, Manchuria, where I was held from 11 November 1942 until my liberation by Russian forces on 30 August 1945.

Q Are you familiar with the circumstances surrounding the deaths of American prisoners of war at Mukden, Manchuria, from on or about 11 November 1942 to on or about 30 August 1945?

A Yes.

Q Describe what you know of your own knowledge concerning these conditions.

A I arrived, with a group of approximately 2000 Americans, at Mukden, Manchuria, on or about 11 November 1942. We were a labor force and were employed in factories in Mukden. We were barracked in brick buildings, forty-eight men to a room which measured approximately twenty by thirty feet. We slept on double-deck wood bunks. Although we had an American doctor, no medical supplies were available for men who suffered from pneumonia or other diseases, and we got so little food that many men died of starvation. Our diet for the entire time I was there consisted of maize and soy beans. I recall that about 250 American prisoners of war died during the first two months I was at Mukden. These men died either from starvation or dysentery. We were unable to do anything to save their lives. I remember the names of three men who died of dysentery; James Francis, G Btry, 59th Coast Artillery; Kenneth Carlson, Hq, 3rd Bn, 59th Coast Artillery; and Verrone D. Yancey, formerly of the G Btry, 59th Coast Artillery. During the time I was at this camp many men died of dysentery, malnutrition, or pneumonia, but I do not recall any of the names, and I do not know the total number of deaths.

Q Who was the Japanese officer in charge of this camp?

A Colonel Matsudo. He was about five feet, five inches tall, and heavy-set. The skin of his face was very wrinkled. He was lame in the right leg and wore horn-rimmed glasses.

Q Who was the senior American officer at this camp?

A Major Hankins, USA, formerly with the 59th Coast Artillery.

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Q What sort of work did you do at this camp?

A We worked in nearby factories. There was a machine factory, a steel mill, a tannery, a lumber mill, and a textile factory. I worked in the machine factory for a while, and later I worked in the steel mill. While I was working in the steel mill, I worked sixteen hours a day rolling steel. Because of this heavy work and the poor food, I lost over sixty pounds in weight during the time I was held at Mukden.

Q What articles were manufactured at Mukden?

A We made steel helmets for the Japanese Army, concrete reinforcing strips, railroad car wheels, airplane parts, and gears for large caliber guns.

Q Who were some other American prisoners of war who were with you at Mukden?

A There was Major Hankins; a medical officer, Captain Herbert Herbst, who was formerly with the 57th Philippine Scout Regiment, and there was S/Sgt Paul Lukas, formerly with the 17th Tank Ordnance Corps, now at Rhoads General Hospital. Then there was Sharkey Brown, formerly a Chief Water Tender in the Navy.

/s/ James Alexander Gilbert, 6983531
James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, 6983531

State of New York)
County of Oneida) SS

I, James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, 6983531, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation, and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ James Alexander Gilbert, 6983531
James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, 6983531

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of November 1945.

/s/ Albert E. Parker
ALBERT E. PARKER, 2d Lt, MAC
Summary Court

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Norman W. Harris, Agent, 1251st SCU, FPI, SID, certify that James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, ASN 6983531, personally appeared before me on 9 November 1945, and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

Place: 1270 Sixth Avenue,
New York, New York

Date: 20 November 1945

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Harryman Dorsey
HARRYMAN DORSEY, Capt., JAGD

/s/ Norman W. Harris
Agent, 1251st SCU, Foreign Positive
Intelligence Section, Security &
Intelligence Division, Headquarters
Second Service Command, 1270 Sixth
Avenue, New York, New York

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答. 私、名前ハ「ジエス・アキナ・ギバート」ナリマス。私ハ等兵ナリ
之ヲ認識票番號ハ第六九三五三號ナリマス。私、本籍ハ「エー
ク・アルベ・州・エリコット街」ニ在リマス。

答. 私ハ一九四二年五月六日ニ比律賓諸島「オート・ヒース」ヲ捕ヘラレ
タ。私ハ「オート・ヒース」ノ俘虜收容所ニ連テ行カレ其所ニ一九四二年十月五
日ヲ抑留セシメタ。私ハ夫レカラ滿洲奉天ニ於テ俘虜收容所ニ連
テ行カレ其所ニ一九四二年十月十一日ヨリ一九四五年八月三十日露西軍ニ依
ツテ解放サレシメテ抑留セシメタ。

答. 私ハ一九四二年十月十一日カラ其ノ頃滿洲奉天ヘ約二十四名ノ米人
兵ト共ニ到着セシメタ。我々ハ一種ノ常役隊ナリシヲ奉天ニ於
ケル諸工場ヲ使ハシメタ。我々ハ煉瓦造ノ建物ニ收容セシメ幅約二十呎
奥行約三十呎ノ廣サノ室ニ四十名ノ割合ニ入ラシメタ。我々ハ三重
鐵床ノ木製寝床ニ上ニ睡眠ヲ取リシメタ。我々ハ一人ノ米人醫師ガ居
タデスガ肺炎又ハ其他ノ疾病ニ依リ慢ニ不癒ル人達ノ為メニ治療
用品ハ利用スルコトガ出来セシメシメタ。而シテ我々ハ非常ニ少量ノ
食物ニカ與フコトナリシヲ、我々ハ人達ガ餓死セシメタ。
我々が其所ニ抑留サレシ中々全期間中ノ食事は玉蜀黍大豆ニ供
セラレシタ。我々が奉天ニ居リシタ最初ノ二ヶ月間ニ約二百五十名ノ米人
俘虜ガ死亡シタト相心セシメタ。之等ノ人達ハ飢餓カサモナレバ赤
痢ニ依リ死亡セシメタ。我々ハ彼等ノ生命ヲ救フ為メ何ヲスルコト出来セシメタ。

答. 我々ハ附近ノ諸工場ニ於テ労働キタ。其所ハ機械工場、製鋼工場、製
革所、製衣工場、及ビ織物工場ガ有リシタ。私ハ暫ク間機械工場
ニ働キ後ニ製鋼工場ニ働キシタ。製鋼工場ハ私ガ働イテ居リシタ間
私ハ鋼材ヲ運搬シテ一日十六時間労働キタ。此ノ過數ナル労働ノ負
弱ナル食物ノ為メ私ハ奉天ニ抑留サレシ居タ間ニ大ニ疲レシメ
失ヒシタ。

問. 如何ナル物品ガ奉天ニ於テ製造セシメシタカ。
答. 我々ハ日本軍用鉄砲、工ナリト補強用鉄線、鉄道車輛、飛行機、部品、
及ビ大口徑砲用ノ出車ヲ造リシタ。